

BRIAN LEE is to continue as manager of Wycombe Wanderers FC until the end of the season. That news, released this week after a meeting of the club's committee and Mr. Lee, ends almost three months speculation of possible successors to the post.

The club issued the following statement this week: 'In view of the club's current strong challenge to retain the championship, the committee are of the opinion that this objective had a greater opportunity of being achieved if the existing management was retained.

'With this objective in mind, the club approached Brian Lee to ask whether he would reconsider his decision to retire.

'At a meeting of the club committee with Brian Lee on Monday, Brian stated that he would be happy under these circumstances to continue as club manager until the end of the season, and at that stage would review the position.'

This move, although something of a surprise, will be welcomed by everyone associated with the club. The committee, players and supporters now have an assurance that nothing will be changed from the current set-up at the club.

And as the club's statement says, Wycombe can now concentrate totally on retain-

ing the league title which they have won under Brian Lee four times in the last five seasons. That record, coupled with four fine runs in the FA Cup, make up by far the greatest achievements in the history of the club.

For the manager who guided the club throughout the last seven years to remain until the end of the season is a real boost all round, especially after the Blues' valuable Rothmans Isthmian League point at Enfield last Saturday.

Chairman Reg Williams was delighted with Brian Lee's decision. "I accepted

Brian's intention of retirement with very much regret and felt that a man of such talent and knowledge of football would be very hard to replace. You can imagine my delight and the delight of the officers and committee when on Monday night, Brian intimated that he would continue.

"Our aim is to work hard as a team on and off the field to produce the results and entertainment our supporters so fully deserve. With Brian staying, our task becomes that much easier."

Lee announced his retirement as manager back in November due to pressure of

work as Director of Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre in Marlow. A new £2 million sports hall is currently being constructed at Bisham.

Although the news of his retirement was no real surprise (Brian had said the previous season, he would soon have to retire), it left an enormous gap for the club to fill for the remainder of the season. Rumours immediately began circulating around Wycombe.

Those rumours will now have to be shelved until the end of the season and perhaps even longer for Lee has said before that he would like his successor to be appointed in mid-season, thereby allowing him the chance to acclimatise to the new position.

The news of the manager's decision to continue could hardly have come at a better time. Wanderers are handily placed in third position in Division One of the league, with no real outside cup commitments to worry them. The aim is now for a hat-trick of championships.

Good start

THE F.A. Representative XI, under new manager Brian Lee, got off to a good start in their first match of the season on Tuesday night when they beat R.A.F. 2-1 at Wealdstone. Leo Markham and Keith Searle scored for the F.A., whose team was: P. Barron, A. Jennings, K. Mead, A. Phillips (capt), P. Birdseye, A. Gane, A. Davies, A. Devonshire, J. Henderson (Sub: Markham), K. Searle, L. Adams (sub R. Knowles). Sub G. Hand (not used).



Brian Lee, the most successful manager in the history of Wycombe Wanderers FC, who has decided to stay on until the end of the season.